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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Letter dated 18 September 1997 from the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address this to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and to refer to a resolution entitled "Decolonization programme in the United Nations system" (A/AC.109/2094), adopted unanimously by the Special Committee on 6 June 1997, reaffirming the political nature of its mandate and urging that the Decolonization Branch be strengthened and maintained in the Department of Political Affairs. I also refer to document A/52/303 containing, *inter alia*, your suggestion that subprogramme 1.6, Decolonization, should be undertaken by the newly created Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. However, section 1B of annex II of the aforementioned document omits any reference to the Decolonization Branch.

Contrary to assurances given to the Special Committee in our previous correspondence, the Decolonization Branch has suffered a setback and has been downgraded. In view of the lack of positive response to the position of the Special Committee, which had been communicated to you repeatedly, I have no alternative but to bring it to the attention of the General Assembly.

Allow me to assure the international community that its support of the Special Committee on this matter would allow the United Nations to assist the peoples of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their sacred right to self-determination and to live up to our common goal of creating a better world for all.

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I would appreciate it if the text of this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 116 and 157.

(Signed) Utula U. **Samana**, CMG
Chairman
Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples